

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6036

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TAGS: PFOR, MBFR, CSCE, IT, CZ

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK VIEWS ON CSCE AND MBFR

GENEVA FOR CSCE DELEGATION

VIENNA FOR MBFR DELEGATION

1. DURING A VISIT TO PRAGUE APRIL 15 AND 16, ITALIAN
POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL ROBERTO DUCCI TALKED WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER CHNOUPEK AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RIZEK ABOUT
THE PROSPECTS FOR CSCE AND MBFR. THE CZECHS EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY THE CSCE CONFERENCE IS MOVING BUT
PRESSED FOR ACCEPTANCE BY THE ITALIANS OF THE 1973 CZECH PROPOSAL
FOR FOLLOW-ON MACHINERY. DUCCI TOLD THEM THAT IF THE
RESULTS OF CSCE HAD BEEN BETTER FROM THE ITALIAN VIEWPOINT,
THE GOI MIGHT HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE IDEA OF
FOLLOW-ON MACHINERY. HOWEVER, TO DO THAT NOW WOULD IMPLY
THAT THE AGREEMENT IS BETTER THAN IT IS IN FACT AND THE
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ITALIANS PREFERRED TO WAIT THREE YEARS TO SEE HOW THE

AGREEMENT WORKS. HE TOLD THE CZECHS THAT IF THEY WANTED TO SEE THE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA END IN JULY THEY SHOULD LEAVE OUT THEIR PROPOSAL. TO INSIST ON IT WOULD PROLONG THE CONFERENCE.

2. SPEAKING SEPARATELY WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RUZEK, DUCCI FOUND CONSIDERABLY LESS ENTHUSIASM FOR CSCE. RUZEK APPARENTLY HAD SOME DOUBT THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD IN FACT END IN JULY, MENTIONING CYPRUS, PORTUGAL'S ELECTIONS AND MALTA'S POSITION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AS BEING ISSUES WHICH MIGHT DELAY THE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT.

3. DUCCI FOUND IT INTERESTING THAT RUZEK DWELT AT LENGTH ON MBFR AND THE PROBLEM OF RAW MATERIALS. REGARDING MBFR, THE CZECHS MENTIONED THAT PERHAPS THEY COULD CONSIDER THE IDEA OF A COMMON CEILING, AT LEAST ON A THEORETICAL BASIS, BUT DOUBTED THAT THE MATTER COULD BE TREATED SOLELY ON THE EQUALITY OF NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL. THE CZECH SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS WEAPON SYSTEMS, AIRCRAFT AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE CEILING. RUZEK MADE A REMARK WHICH DUCCI CONSIDERED RATHER IMPORTANT. THE CZECHS APPARENTLY ARE NOT AS CONCERNED ABOUT US ACCEPTANCE OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT AS THEY ARE THAT THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT MIGHT NOT APPROVE AN MBFR AGREEMENT. DUCCI REMARKED THAT FRG FONMIN GENSCHER AND POLDIR VON WELL HAD VISITED PRAGUE EARLIER AND DISCUSSED MBFR IN SOME DETAIL WITH THE CZECHS. APPARENTLY THIS MEETING CAUSED THE CZECHS TO WORRY WHETHER AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY THE BUNDESTAG. RUZEK, WITHOUT INDICATING A LINKAGE WITH THE CONCLUSION OF CSCE, COMMENTED THAT THERE WOULD BE MOVEMENT AT THE MBFR TALKS IN THE FALL. AS PROOF OF THE WARSAW PACT'S DESIRE FOR PROGRESS HE DREW DUCCI'S ATTENTION TO BREZHNEV'S SPEECH IN BUDAPEST LAST MARCH.

4. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF RAW MATERIALS, THE CZECHS INDICATED THEY WERE FEELING THE PINCH ON PRICES INCLUDING IMPORTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION. THEY HAD MANAGED TO LIMIT THE INCREASE AT THE RETAIL LEVEL BUT WONDERED IF THEY COULD CONTINUE TO KEEP INFLATION UNDER CONTROL. DUCCI TOLD THEM THAT ITALY HAS A SIMILAR PROBLEM AND SUGGESTED THAT THE CZECHS MIGHT BE FIRMER AT THE UN IN HELPING INDUSTRIAL NATIONS

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OPPOSE LDC PROPOSALS WHICH WERE PRETTY OUTRAGEOUS IN THIS RESPECT. THE CZECHS PROMISED TO STUDY THE IDEA OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON RAW MATERIALS, POSSIBLY IN AN UNOFFICIAL, ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK, AND GET BACK TO THE ITALIANS WITH A SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSAL. BEAUDRY

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